

Overland Park Hosts Four-State Conference: 'Hepatitis in the Heartland'

A two-day conference focusing on developments in preventing and treating viral hepatitis will be hosted by four Midwestern states' health agencies March 30-31 in Overland Park, KS.

The conference, 'Hepatitis in the Heartland,' is the first hosted jointly by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Iowa Department of Public Health, Nebraska Health and Human Services, and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The conference will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park.

Viral Hepatitis is a group of liver diseases caused by different viruses: A, B, C and E. The viruses designated have different methods of transmission, though the outward signs can be the same. Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C can become chronic diseases with severe consequences. Hepatitis C is the most common viral hepatitis in Kansas, and is generally spread via contaminated blood.

"This conference is a great opportunity for a variety of experts from the three states to share their knowledge," said Dr. Gail Hansen, Acting State Epidemiologist.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment maintains a Hepatitis Website at <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/epi/hepatitis.html>.

Conference attendees will include health care professionals, substance abuse counselors, correction facilities' staff, STD counselors, HIV counselors and other related professionals.

This four-state gathering will provide education and networking opportunities through workshops, exhibits and keynote addresses on the latest trends and advancements in the prevention and treatment of Hepatitis infections at the local and national levels.

For more information regarding conference registration and activities, consult the conference Website: www.trainingresources.org, or call conference organizers at 515-309-3315.